

Makinder - Barriers and challenges

I think Leicester has always had a very diverse population, but the changes within the diversity I think have been challenging and almost borderline upsetting and hostile. Only because those who maybe moved into Leicester previously have now turned on people who are now moving into Leicester. There is a nastiness that you would not necessarily expect to see but you do see it and you do hear it. When South Asians moved into Leicester, they were persecuted by maybe the local white community because we were moving in droves. But now Central and Eastern European communities are moving in and South Asian people are now going after them. So, I am like, 'Why? You were once in that position!' It is frustrating. I think a lot of it is once again out of fear of the unknown, which is how it has always been. I think there probably could be more that the city could do to support newer communities moving in, from an on the ground perspective. You see a lot of other cultures represented in different festivities and festivals that are happening, but you do not necessarily see wider communities. So I feel that more can be done to harness that harmony and connectedness that Leicester is known for.